

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, January 24, 2011

### *Attending:*

<i>Mayor Matthew Arnett</i>	<i>Councilor Janet Hughes</i>
<i>Councilor Jean Lawlis</i>	<i>Councilor William Shakespeare</i>
<i>Councilor Tom Brann</i>	<i>Councilor Kristen Hornbrook</i>
<i>Councilor Andre Cushing</i>	<i>Town Manager Susan Lessard</i>
<i>Sherry Chen – Resident</i>	
<i>Rick Instamante – Resident</i>	
<i>Steve Eyles – Resident</i>	
<i>Mark Pierce - Resident</i>	

1. Warrant Review & Signatures - *The warrants were reviewed and signed by the members of the Committee. No questions on expenditures were asked.*
2. Financial Statements 12-31-2010 – *The Town Manager presented the Financial Statements for the month ending 12/31/10. She gave the highlights of each statement and noted that both revenues and expenditures seemed to be tracking well with budgeted figures. Motion by Janet Hughes, seconded by William Shakespeare to accept the December 2010 Financial Statements. Unanimous vote.*
3. Old Business
  - a. Hamlin Land Swap – Update and Ideas for Payment –*The Town Manager discussed ideas related to how Hamlin's might pay the Town for the land on which the marina sits. Hamlin's wants to use a boat-donation-a-year method. The Manager indicated that she had talked with Steve Eyles from the Snowmobile Club about the idea of the Club doing a raffle annually for a donated boat. The Club was interested in further discussions of that possibility. Council members expressed concern over the form of collateral that would be used to guarantee payment of the \$250,000, terms related to a first-refusal options should Hamlin's decide to sell the marina lot, and some sort of guaranty that if the property were to be offered for sale by the Hamlin's that whatever balance was owed for the land swap would be satisfied – that any alternative funding methodology would cease at that time and the total remaining balance would be due and payable. The Town Manager was instructed to work further with the Hamlin's and the Town Attorney and bring it back to the Council. The Infrastructure Committee may have this as an agenda item on 1/31/2011.*

- b. 2011 Paper Talks Ad – Hampden resident Mark Pierce attended the meeting for the purpose of asking the Committee if they would support the Town placing an ad in the July 2011 edition of "Paper Talks". His request was for the town to purchase a ¼ page ad for \$800. The Town has purchased an ad a year in Paper Talks. The July edition features a number of articles concerning Hampden.

Motion by Councilor Brann to purchase a ¼ page ad. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Councilor Lawlis to purchase a 1/9 page ad in Paper Talks. Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilor Brann indicated support for the idea because he felt that it provided good visibility for the economic development activity of the town and because he had favorable feedback on it from residents. Councilor Shakespeare indicated he could not support the action because of concerns over the looming cost increases in education.

Motion by Councilor Brann to purchase a ¼ page ad in the July edition of Paper Talks. Motion seconded by Councilor Hughes. Vote 3 in favor, 4 opposed (Arnett, Lawlis, Hornbrook, Shakespeare).

#### 4. New Business

- a. Ambulance Abatements - 2009 - The Town Manager explained that the bulk of the requested abatements (\$26,464) were from bills for uninsured calls. The next category (\$2296) was from those calls that were denied by insurance, and the third category was for those that lacked co pay insurance. Motion by Councilor Lawlis, seconded by Councilor Cushing to recommend to the Council that \$26464 in 2009 ambulance bills for uninsured persons be abated. Vote 6 – 1 (Hughes). Motion by Councilor Lawlis, seconded by Councilor Brann to recommend to the Council to abate \$2296 in ambulance charges for 2009 for bills denied by insurers. Vote 6 – 1 (Hughes). Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Lawlis to recommend to the Council that \$870.60 in 2009 ambulance bills be abated covering those who lacked co pay insurance or whose co pay insurance denied the claim. Vote 6 – 1 (Hughes). Councilor Hughes indicated that she felt that there should be an income assessment for those with outstanding ambulance charges before deciding on an abatement.

- b. Abatement Request – Property Taxes – *Mrs. Sherry Chen and Rick Instamante attended the meeting to request that the Town Council abate prior year taxes in the same manner that she received an abatement for part of her 2010/2011 taxes due to condition of the property. The Town Attorney advised the Committee that the Town Council did not have authority to grant tax abatements for valuation errors, that Mrs. Chen's avenue would be the Board of Assessment Review. In addition, he advised those present that the Board of Assessment review would only have authority to affect the valuation of the property in the current year of taxation and would not be able to abate taxes assessed in prior years.*

5. Public Comment - *None*

6. Committee Member Comments - *None*

*The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Susan Lessard  
Town Manager*